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SHILOH RETRIEVAL

by Marian A. Hawes

The basic theme of the LIFELINE® program is service to others: service in the Here, for living humans who request it; service in the There, for those no longer in time-space physical existence. As participants perform service in either area, they may feel an inner knowledge of its validity. At the same time, there is a desire for objective, outside corroboration. Micki Hawes persistently searched out such evidence following a dramatic retrieval during her April 1993 LIFELINE. This narrative account, submitted to Trainer Darlene Miller, was accompanied by copies of the documentation she unearthed.

On Thursday, April 29, 1993, at Focus 22, while attending *LIFELINE*, a hand began pulling on my ankle. It would not let go. Identification was requested. The name given was George Stevens or Stevenson. Next we were on a battlefield. I was looking around saying, "Oh my God, oh my God." The question was asked where we were and the answer came back, Shiloh. I "saw" what looked like blue uniforms, although they were mud caked and bloody. I asked what year. He told me later 1800s. When asked what he wanted, the answer was that his company wanted to GO ON together because they had died together. We held on to each other's ankles in a chain and went to Focus 27.

Judging by the date, it must have been the Civil War. I know absolutely nothing about the Civil War. I asked *LIFELINE* participants where Shiloh was located. One thought Virginia. Another said Pennsylvania. That's how much we knew.

On Saturday, June 26, 1993, I was sealed across the table from a Civil War expert at a formal dinner (Wasn't that a coincidence?) I asked about Shiloh and learned the battle was fought in Tennessee. The book *Shiloh: Bloody April* by Wiley Sword was recommended. It is interesting to note that the battle was fought in April and the contact at TMI was made in April. In the preface was reference to an 1862 firsthand account by William G. Stevenson titled *Shiloh: Thirteen Months in the Rebel Army*. Nowhere in the text was there reference to a middle name. Did the G stand for George? Was this my George? Blue uniform? Rebel army? Something was amiss. It wasn't right.

The Cincinnati Public Library provided me with the Official Records to the *War of Rebellion: Reference Index of Shiloh Casualties*. Frustration! Wounded, yes! Mustered out, yes! Casualty, no!

I told the librarian everything. He was fascinated by how the information was obtained. He immediately called a colleague who referred me to the United States Department of the Interior, Shiloh National Military Park.

I wrote (enclosed). A response was received (enclosed). George H. Stevens was wounded at Shiloh. At first that did not seem right. Then something struck me: George Stevens was the first name received. The contact had been made at The Monroe Institute on April 29, 1991. George Stevens died on April 29, 1863—same date, 131 years earlier and was reburied at Shiloh National Cemetery, Grave M-2806. He made the initial contact. Illinois was Union. George W. Stephenson was killed in action at Shiloh, burial on the field in a mass grave. I began feeling shivers. This George was killed, not wounded. This was it! Missouri was Union. The April dates, the mass grave, and others being with him indicated the need for a group rescue.

Life gently nudged me into the pursuit which led to verification. I felt great satisfaction in being able to help. The original experience was very real on one plane. It is now real on another.

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